IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5-12, 39-45, and 72-78, as set forth below.

Claims 1-31 (Canceled)

1   32.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

2 receiving a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of

3   dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;

4 searching a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;

5 transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if

6   the local dispatch table identifies the server; and

7 transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of

8   dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock

9   indicating that communications received from a client are to be transmitted to the

10   locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.

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1   33.   (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the local dispatch table

2 includes the client lock, the method further comprising:

3 selecting a server from the plurality of servers; and

4 transmitting the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

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1   34.   (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising broadcasting a

2   dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality

3   of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating

4   removal of the client lock.

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1   35.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

2   receiving a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet

3   including a connection request from a client;

4   creating a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that

5   packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a

6   server is selected for the client; and

7   broadcasting a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of

8   the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

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1   36.   (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

2   receiving at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and

3   transmitting the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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1   37.   (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2   selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and

3   transmitting the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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1   38.   (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising broadcasting

2   another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said

3   another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the

4   client lock.

Claims 39-64 (Canceled)

1   65.   (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   receive a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of

5   dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;

6   search a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;

7   transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers

8   if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and

9   transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the

10   plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the

11   client lock indicating that communications received from a client are to be

12   transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the

13   client.

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1   66.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 65, the local dispatch table

2   including the client lock, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the

3   machine to:

4   select a server from the plurality of servers; and

5   transmit the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

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1   67.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 66, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast a dispatch table

3   update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers,

4   the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the

5   client lock.

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1   68.   (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   receive a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first

5   packet including a connection request from a client;

6   create a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating

7   that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one

8   dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and

9   broadcast a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers

10   of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the

11   client lock.

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1   69.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 68, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine:

3   receive at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and

4   transmit the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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1   70.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 69, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and

4   transmit the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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1   71.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 70, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast another dispatch

3   table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch

4   table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

       Claims 72-78 (Canceled)